

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**METHOD, SYSTEM, AND PROGRAM FOR MAINTAINING AND SWAPPING
PATHS IN AN MPIO ENVIRONMENT**

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A path control module manages a set of primary paths and a set of standby paths for a target device. When a path in the set of primary paths fails, the path control module may failover to the set of standby paths.

10 Alternatively, when a path in the set of primary paths fails, the path control module may failover that path to a single path from the set of standby paths. The sets of primary paths and standby paths may be set by an administrator to control load balancing of resources in
15 the storage area network. The primary set of paths for a first disk may be the standby set of paths for a second disk. Similarly, the primary set of paths for the second disk may be the standby set of paths for the first disk.